

Appl. No. 10/771,780
Amdt. dated August 12, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 20, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

It is noted that on page 1 of the Office Action of June 20, 2005 it is stated that claims 1-15 and 17-29 have been withdrawn from consideration. In the context of the Office Action as a whole, it is believed that this is an error and that the claims that have been withdrawn from consideration are 1-15 and 23-29. This response is written based upon that assumption.

Claims 1-20 and 22-29 are pending in the application with claims 1-15 and 23-29 having been withdrawn from consideration, claim 21 having been canceled, and claims 16 and 22 having been amended.

Claims 16-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Okamoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,629,398).

Claims 16-18 and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Datta et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,981,643).

The Examiner has stated, "Claims 21 and 22 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims."

Claim 21 is dependent upon claim 16. Claim 16 has been amended to incorporate all of the features of claim 21, which is equivalent to rewriting claim 21 in independent form, and claim 21 has been canceled. Claims 17-20 and 22 are all dependent upon claim 16. Claim 22 has been amended in view of the amendment of claim 16.

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Accordingly, it is requested that the rejection of claims 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Okamoto et al. and of claims 16-18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Datta et al. be withdrawn.

It is noted that, according to the Examiner, the information disclosure statement filed February 4, 2004 failed to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(1). A new information disclosure statement is filed herewith.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and an early Office Action to that end is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

12 Aug 05
Date

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